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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC Soviet Tank Repair Shop at Kirchmoeser-West

EVALUATION ☐ 25X1X PLACE OBTAINED ☐ 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 5 to 17 November 1951

DATE OBTAINED ☐ DATE PREPARED 22 January 1952

REFERENCES 25X1A

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE ☐ 25X1X

1. Between 5 and 17 November 1951, 15 tanks and their crews arrived by rail at the tank repair shop Kirchmoeser. Eight other tanks were dispatched from the depot for an undetermined destination. The crews were with their tanks.
2. The tanks were first parked on the parking lot where, on 15 November, 24 tanks were seen. After the tool boxes were removed, the tanks drove to the main workshop. As far as could be observed, no tank had to be towed to the shop.
3. At the main workshop, tracks, bogie wheels, motors, electrical equipment and armament were removed and the turrets dismantled. The shop contained 25 tanks on 5 November and 31 tanks on 14 November. When 31 tanks were in the shop, it was probably occupied to capacity, as the tanks were closely lined up on the assembly line, with two tanks, whose equipment had been removed, standing at a right angle. About 100 men, exclusively Russians, were employed at the main shop, while Germans were employed only as turners in the smaller shops. The complete overhaul provided for a replacement of motors, tracks, torsion bars and electrical equipment and, partially, of axles, bogie wheels and circular tracks. Source could not determine whether the armament was also replaced. After being removed, the armament was taken to repair shops I or II. The guns of the tanks, which were exclusively JS-3s with angular front plates, had a caliber of about 85-mm. The barrels were provided with muzzle brakes which could be unscrewed. The tactical marks painted on the tanks were removed and not replaced.
4. On 15 November, eight tanks were in the locomotive shed, where the tanks were cleaned and greased from below.
5. The completely overhauled tanks were then placed in a second parking lot, ready to be dispatched. On 15 November, 15 tanks were standing there. Their crews, an average of 4 or 5 men, installed the tool box, fastened the gasoline containers on and stowed their personal belongings in the tanks.
6. On 15 November, 15 canvas-covered tanks were in a third parking lot which was guarded by sentries who patrolled between the tanks. There was no activity.
7. On the morning of 15 November, 30 officers and 640 EM, the latter about 20 years old, assembled for roll call on the parade ground. Numerous other EM, apparently the tank crews, were seen at their quarters at the same time. After roll call, the troops left in groups of 30 to 35 men. Three groups leaving

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CLASSIFICATION

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for the main shop, 2 for the tank parking lot and the locomotive sheds and 3 for the repair shops.

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9. Drawings examined at the Soviet construction bureau, also housed at the installation, bore the inscription B 4 nn 48819 underneath the signature.

10. Although the construction bureau had not declared the loading ramp of the installation ready for use, the Soviets had started to use it by 7 November 1951. *

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[REDACTED] Comment. The information confirms the 123d Tank Repair Shop of the GOCG with its two branch plants in Muellrose, south of Frankfurt/Oder, and in Kirchmoeser, west of Brandenburg. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] During the last two months, reports have indicated that the two plants received heavy shipments of tank spare parts, at least 100 railroad carloads from the U.S.S.R. every month. This increase in spare part shipments is probably necessary because of the high quota of damaged tanks turned in for repair after the summer and fall maneuvers. The specific data of the present report confirms the high capacity of the plant, especially the information that 30 tanks were completely overhauled at one time. The vehicles identified at the installation belong to the GOCG; headquarters units of the Third Gds Mecz Army; headquarters units of the Third Shock Army; headquarters units of the Second Gds Mecz Army; 19th Gds Mecz Div of the Third Shock Army; and to the 24th Tank Div of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army. The completion of a special road for tanks and the opening of a loading ramp indicate that the Soviets do not intend to release the installation which is part of the large railroad repair shop and is urgently needed for repair work by the railroads.

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